cumulated losses of the Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO) for acceptance of the revival proposal for the sick company; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS); (a) and (b) IISCO is a sick company and has been under reference to BIFR since June, 1994 for determination of measures in regard to the future of the company. SAIL have submitted a proposal which inter alia includes writing off of accumulated losses, to revive IISCO in a joint Venture (JV) partnership with M/s Tyaz pron export (TPE) of Russia. This proposal is dependent on the use of Rupee Debt Funds for which an Inter Govermental Agreement between the Gvoernment of Russia and Government of India is required. The project envisages an investment of Rs. 2107 crores. Govt. of India's efforts in this direction culminated in the signing of a Protocal in the Fifth Session of Indo-Russian Inter Governmental Commission in November, 1998. In the Protocol, it has been proposed to use a part of India Rupee Debts as contribution of the Russian side to the Joint Venture Company.

Accordingly, Govt. of India have already formally presented to the Russian side the draft of an agreement which could be signed between the two countries. The response of the Russian Govt. is awaited. However, any scheme to be taken up for modernisation will have to be in accordance with the orders of the BIFR in this regard.

Import of Steel

1358. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is importing Steel;

(b) whether steel is being dumped to kill the local steel industry; and

(c) whether Government are considering imposing anti-dumping duty on imported steel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) Indian steel industry is facing competition on account of import at low prices and dumping from some countries. On the recommendation of the Designated Authority in the Ministry of Commerce Government have imposed anti-dumping duties on imports of HR Coils, HR Strips/Sheets/Plates and Boiler Quality Plates from Russia and Ukraine.

Distribution of Funds From Steel Development Fund

1359. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH SURYA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that so far funds from Steel Development Fund have been made available to SAIL and TISCO only;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether some other steel companies approached for this fund; and

(d) if so, governments response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (d) Loans have been granted from Steel Development Fund to Steel Authority of India Ltd. Tata Iron & Steel Company Ltd., Rastriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. and Indian Iron & Steel Company Ltd. for modernisation/expansion schemes of these Main Producers. The Main Producers, i.e. SAIL, TISCO, RINL and IISCO were the first generation steel producers through whom an element of surcharge (SDF levy) was collected which became the corpus of SDF. The steel produced by other steel producers in the private sector and imported steel were not subjected to the SDF levy. Recently some steel companies have approached for loans from this fund. However, the loan